

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06488 251316Z

42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SAM-01 SIL-01

LAB-04 /036 W

----- 116889

R 251355Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6895

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SP

SUBJECT: AIRPORT CONTROLLERS "GO SLOW" HAMPERING AIR SERVICE

1. SINCE AUGUST 15 AIRCRAFT CONTROLLERS AT THE PRINCIPAL SPANISH AIRPORTS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYING "GO-SLOW" TACTICS IN SUPPORT OF VARIOUS DEMANDS THEY ARE MAKING OF THE GOS. THE CONTROLLERS ARE INTERPRETING REGULATIONS WITH EXCESSIVE RIGIDITY PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND WITH RESULTANT DELAYS, IN AIRCRAFT DEPARTURES. THE CONTROLLERS' REPORTEDLY IN NO WAY JEOPARDIZES AIRCRAFT SAFETY. IN RECENT DAYS. THE CONTROLLERS HAVE BROADENED AND INTENSIFIED THEIR CAMPAIGN APPARENTLY IN AN EFFORT TO SHOW THE GOS THAT THEY MEAN BUSINESS. VIRTUALLY ALL AIRLINES HAVE EXPERIENCED LONG DELAYS AND TWA REPORTS THAT THEY HAVE HAD TO CANCEL THEIR SERVICES INTO MALAGA AND BARCELONA BECAUSE EXCESSIVE GROUNDS TIMES AT THOSE AIRPORTS HAVE THROWN SCHEDULES INTO CHAOS. PANAM SAYS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN "LUCKLY" SO FAR AND HAVE BEEN LITTLE AFFECTED.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 06488 251316Z

2. WHILE THE CONTROLLERS ARE ASKING FOR RAISES IN PAY, THE MAIN THRUST OF THEIR DEMANDS IS FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND IMPROVED TECHNICAL FACILITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THEY ALLEGE TO BE DEFICIENT IN NUMBERS AND QUALITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICE. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTROLLERS ARE TALKING WITH THE GOS, BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION AS TO HOW SOON THE SITUATION MAY RETURN TO NORMAL.

COMMENY THE CONTROLLERS ACTION HIGHLIGHTS WHAT HAS LONG BEEN PRIVATELY ADMITTED- THAT SPAIN'S AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED AND LAGS BEHIND SYSTEMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH COMPATABLE VOLUMES OF TRAFFIC. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE REMEDIED IN A DAY, BUT PERHAPS THE CONTROLLERS WILL SUCCEED IN FOCUSING PRIORITY ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM. THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IS NOT HAVING A GOOD YEAR AND THE "GO SLOW" CAMPAIGN IS TIMED FOR MAXIMUM PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT, ALTHOUGH ITS AFFECT ON THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF VISITORS TO DATE HAS PROBABLY NOT BEEN GREAT.

STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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